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生死の自覚について

—— ソクラテスと禅をめぐって ——

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On the Awareness of Life and Death

—— Concerning Socrates and Zen ——

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Abstract

There are two fundamental views in bioethics. The quality of life view, based on the incontinuity of life, takes the right of self-decision seriously. The sanctity of life view, based on the continuity of life, emphasizes the value of life itself. Both views may seem opposed diametrically in the shallow sphere of mind, but are compensated for in the deep thoughts underlying the awareness of life and death. Socratic and Zen thinking contribute to this awareness. Socrates freely and ironically goes beyond the incontinuous border of life and death. Zen suggests the total action which means concentration on the incontinuous *now* supported by the continuous life. Both thoughts avoid a one-sided acceptance of either continuity or incontinuity, and promote the deepening of self-awareness through the consciousness of the dynamic relation between continuity and incontinuity.